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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,947	10/31/2003	Nobuyuki Nonaka	SHO-0047	8932

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EXAMINER

SHAH, MILAP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3712

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,947

Applicant(s)

NONAKA, NOBUYUKI

Examiner

Milap Shah

Art Unit

3712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/23/04 & 10/19/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Appropriate correction is required.

The following title is suggested: "IMPROVED COLOR IMAGE DISPLAY DEVICE FOR USE WITH GAMING MACHINES".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 recites "...such as a slot machine or a pachinko machine..." which is vague and indefinite. It is unclear exactly which of these two types of machines is "the gaming machine" that is claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an

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application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liang et al. (U.S.

Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016318).

Claims 1 & 3: Liang et al. disclose the same invention including a color display unit having a pixel unit that is formed by arranged each one of a plurality of kinds of pixel electrodes that display predetermined colors (i.e. electrodes representing the colors red, green, and blue), and one pixel being constituted by a pair of adjacent pixels or sub-pixels of the whole pixel (figure 3). Liang et al. also disclose an information signal that is sent to the pixel electrodes at the same time to both sets of one of the plurality of colors, such as sending an information signal to both electrodes that represent the color red to enable both electrodes to present a red lighting at the same time (paragraphs 0017-0019). Liang et al. also disclose the pixels are arranged in a matrix as traditionally done in a display unit.

Claims 2 & 4: Liang et al. disclose the pixels are arranged in a matrix in an "xy plane", and as seen in figure 3, the pixel electrodes of the same color are arranged in the y direction and the same pattern is continuously arranged in the x direction to form a stripe (figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang et al., as applied to claims 1-4, where applicable.

Claim 5: Liang et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for specifically disclosing the display unit is provided on a game board, that is, the display unit is intended to be used within a gaming machine. However, Liang et al. does disclose the color display unit is a highly transmissive liquid crystal display (paragraph 0015), but does not specifically go into particular uses for his color display unit. One would be motivated to use the color display unit of Liang et al. in any place that would require a color display unit, such as, for example, a computer, a slot machine, a television, or anywhere else an improved color display unit would be useful because Liang et al. disclose their improved color display unit provides a finer image, better color mixing effect, and achieves display effects commensurate with that of a high-level display, while having a low cost. Thus, a game developer would be motivated to use the color display unit in a slot machine design because of its low-level, low-cost production that produces high quality imaging which is needed in a slot machine to convey animation, images, winnings, and excitement to a player for purposes of retention. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to mount Liang et al.'s color display unit on a game board for use in a gaming/slot machine in order to provide high quality imaging at low-cost.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Applicability</u>
Ohgawara et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,617,230	Color liquid crystal display device with peripheral pixels, etc.
Suzuki et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,936,694	Liquid crystal display device, see figure 1.
Liang et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,407,793	Another Liang et al. publication with the same disclosure as the PGPub relied upon above, filed earlier (May 2, 2001).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milap Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Scott Jones can be reached on (571) 272-4438. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M.B.S.



**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**